

Message

**From:**

This Week @ EPA [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7A2F56A248E647F0BD8A89E90EC7AFBC-EPA NEWS]

**Sent:**

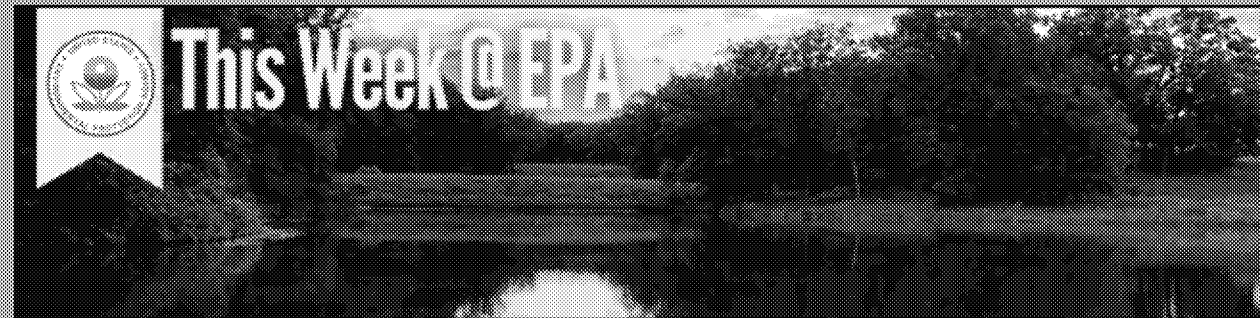
11/12/2019 8:02:40 PM

**To:**

This Week @ EPA [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7a2f56a248e647f0bd8a89e90ec7afbc-EPA NEWS]

**Subject:**

This Week @ EPA - November 12, 2019



November 12, 2019

Banner photograph taken by Eric Gibbs of R

[Senior Leadership Focus](#) | [Benefits Corner](#) | [Hot Topics](#) | [ELMS](#) | [Intern Spotlight](#) | [Key Dates](#) | [Video Spotlight](#) | [CFC](#) | [Health & Wellness](#)

## Senior Leadership Focus

In case you missed it:

- Administrator Wheeler announced EPA is seeking 20-30 nominees for the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal
- As part of the EPA's extensive efforts to help communities address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) under the releasing the Systematic Review Protocol for five PFAS toxicity assessments for a 45-day public comment period.
- EPA recognized six groups and individuals for their innovative work on clean air projects. The 2019 Clean Air Excellence and private sector programs that educate the public in improving air quality or reducing harmful air pollutants that threaten
- EPA is proposing to streamline and modernize the review of permits by the agency's Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) regulated parties, states and tribes, and the public.
- EPA continued its progress on a suite of actions to address ethylene oxide by announcing proposed amendments to the Manufacturing National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), known as MON, to reduce hazardous oxide (EtO). EPA is also addressing EtO from commercial sterilizers, working closely with other federal partners to address providing an update on its work to better understand EtO.
- EPA announced an estimated \$2.5 million in federal grant funding to improve water quality on tribal lands. Awards made u announcement will support tribal-led projects that will make a significant difference in water quality and human health on tr

## Benefits Corner - Open Season

It's "Open Season" - review your health coverage now

Now is the time to review your annual health coverage options during Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) Open Season (O through December 9. The Office of Mission Support (OMS) has several resources to help you prepare and ensure you have the needs:

- The [Benefits Corner SharePoint Site](#) is an interactive tool with answers to common questions.
- The [Checkbook FEHB Plan Comparison Tool](#) will compare health plans (click on "Related Links").
- A Virtual Annual Health Fair is available through December 9. [Registration is required.](#)
- Additional support is available from your [Shared Service Center Benefits Specialist](#).

Ready to enroll, change or terminate your current coverage? Visit [EEX](#) to change FEHB coverage. If you are satisfied with your current plan or voluntary leave bank membership, no action is necessary.

- If you choose to enroll in an optional [Flexible Spending Account \(FSA\)](#), you MUST re-enroll each year to participate (FSA over).
- If you are making changes to your voluntary leave bank, please visit the [National EPA Leave Bank and Leave Donation Page](#) forms ("Leave Bank and Leave Transfer Application" and "Leave Bank Election Form").

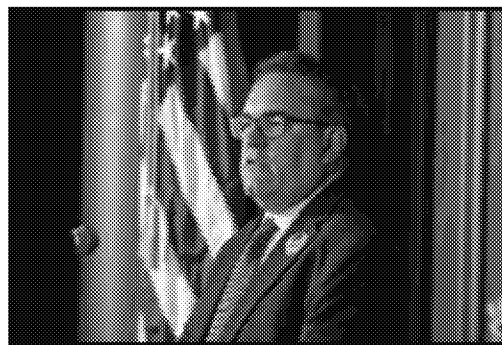
Did you forget your [EEX](#) login ID and/or password? Follow the instructions on the website or contact the [EEX Help Desk](#). For additional assistance, please contact your organization's [Shared Service Center Benefits Specialist](#).

## Hot Topics

### 2019 National Veterans Day observance

On Tuesday, November 5, EPA paid tribute to veterans and military families at the annual Veterans Day commemoration. In his remarks, Administrator Pruitt recognized the more than thirteen-hundred veterans who continue to serve by being a part of the EPA family. A [slideshow](#) featuring EPA veterans was shown. In his keynote speech, Lieutenant General Mike Linnington, Chief Executive Officer of the Wounded Warrior Project, encouraged EPA employees to thank veterans for their sacrifice while also honoring their caregivers.

To view pictures from the event please visit the [Veterans Day gallery](#) on the Multimedia site. [View a video recording](#) of the event.



**Nominate a colleague for an Arthur S. Flemming Award!**



Recognize the accomplishments of your colleagues by nominating them for the [Arthur S. Flemming Awards](#)! This award is recognized by the federal government, the public sector, and the private sector, and is considered one of the most prestigious awards for federal government service. Five EPA employees are nominated annually for these awards.

There are 12 awards presented annually in five categories:

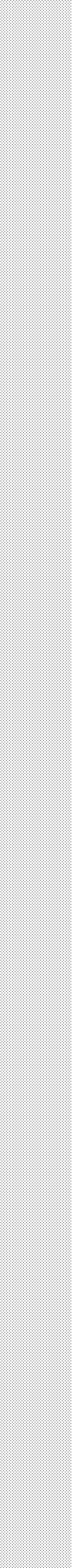
- Leadership and/or Management;
- Legal Achievement;
- Social Science, Clinical Trials, and Translational Research;
- Applied Science and Engineering; and
- Basic Science.

If you are interested in nominating an EPA employee, please email one to two paragraphs justifying the award nomination to [Marilyn](#). Support no later than **Monday, January 6**. OMS will then work with agency leadership to select two EPA nominees for each category. Please complete and submit the required forms. EPA will then submit the nominations by the deadline on **Friday, January 31**. Please contact Marilyn at 202-564-8111.

Eligibility is restricted to current federal employees with 3-15 years as of Dec. 31, 2019. The [nomination form](#) and more information are available on the [Arthur S. Flemming website](#).

For more information, contact Laurel Varnell, Flemming Awards Coordinator, at [FlemmingAwards@gwu.edu](mailto:FlemmingAwards@gwu.edu).

## America Recycles Week



November 11 - 15 is America Recycles Week. Recycling is one of the most widely available ways for each and every one of us to protect our environment. When EPA began in 1970, the national recycling rate was less than 10 percent. Today, recycling programs can be found across the country. The national recycling rate has grown to more than 35 percent! As much as we have increased the amount we recycle, there are still challenges. That is why last year EPA held our first America Recycles Summit, which brought together stakeholders from across the recycling industry to make a Pledge. We have a wealth of efforts underway to enhance public education and outreach, increase our investment in recycling infrastructure, and increase recycled materials and improve measurement and data collection.

In that vein, this week EPA is releasing the National Framework for Advancing the U.S. Recycling System, which summarizes the current state of recycling and lays out the numerous actions we recommend focusing on to continue this work in 2020. Recycling in the U.S. is strong, but there are still challenges that require our continued, sustained efforts to achieve the goal of a stronger, more resilient system. EPA intends to develop a set of goals with underlying indicators that describe the performance of different components of the value chain. Goals give us something to aim for and encourage people across the U.S. to recycle more and to recycle correctly.

For more information, read the [America Recycles website](#).

**OAS Biweekly Update: Don't miss out on your subscription**

The Office of Acquisition Solutions (OAS) offers EPA acquisition professionals access to a government web-based subscription se

Office (VAO) that provides learning opportunities, as well as important news and information regarding acquisition policies.

**VAO Subscription Benefits:**

- Contracting Officer Representative toolkit.
- Updated contracting samples and templates for use.
- Plenty of online training on various acquisition topics.
- Continuous learning points to maintain acquisition certification.
- Organized listing of government-wide contracts available for use by EPA.
- Information on acquisition legislative, policy, and regulatory developments and their impact.
- Step-by-step acquisition and document filing guide to provide support through the contracting process.

If a VAO subscription interests you, please email: [OMS-ARM-OAS-AcquisitionPolicy@epa.gov](mailto:OMS-ARM-OAS-AcquisitionPolicy@epa.gov).

**The Clean Air Act Excellence Awards**

On November 6, EPA recognized six groups and individuals for their innovative work on clean air projects. [The 2019 Clean Air Ex](#)

local, tribal, and private sector programs that educate the public in improving air quality or reducing harmful air pollutants that threaten

This year's winners include:

- **Clean Air Technology Award:** Calgren Renewable Fuels/Maas Energy Works (Redding, CA).
- **Community Action Award:** The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and Airshed Partners (WA).
- **Education and Outreach Award:** Children's Environmental Health Network- Eco-Healthy Child Care® Program (Washington).
- **State/Tribal/Local/Air Quality Policy Award:** Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment - Air Pollution Control Division.
- **Transportation Efficiency Award:** RideFinders - RideFinders Commute Green Summer Challenge (Richmond, VA).
- **Thomas W. Zosel Individual Achievement Award:** Ned Sanders.

Established in 2000, the Clean Air Excellence Awards recognize programs and individuals that serve as pioneers in their fields, address air pollution, and improve air quality. Entries are judged by EPA and the Clean Air Advisory Committee, and winners were recognized at the EPA Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

More information on the award winners, please visit the [Clean Air Excellence Awards site](#).

**EPA & local groups work to eliminate lead poisoning in St. Joseph, Missouri**



Children came to the Bartlett Center Halloween party for the candy, but some parents came for the free lead screening on October 10. Bartlett Center and the St. Joseph Health Department to offer the screening at no cost. After a visit with the nurse, kids received candy.

Bartlett Center Executive Director Marchel Turner explained that lead screening is important for children in the 64501 ZIP code. From the Bartlett Center, she reported high blood lead levels, according to a [2016 Reuters examination](#) ([Exit](#)). St. Joseph was one of nearly 3,000 areas in the U.S.

Please read the [full article](#) on this topic posted to the [R7@Work](#) site.

**ELMS Update**



On October 29 and October 30, the Office of Continuous Improvement (OCI) hosted its second annual ELMS Summit. [Learn more](#) about the summit materials.

CFC

CFC Cause of the Week: Veterans



When veterans return from active duty, the transition to civilian life is often challenging. Translating military experience to the civilian world can be difficult. The physical and mental trauma experienced during their service may impact their daily lives. Thankfully, there are charities that provide services ranging from housing and medical care, to counseling and professional development.

Small contributions to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) supported charities can make a big impact. For example:

- \$50 secures jobs for four veterans.
- \$200 covers the cost of interviewing a veteran as part of a mission to research and share information on past conflicts.
- \$300 pays for a service member to attend a career opportunity day, helping them reintegrate into the private sector.

What's your cause? Consider donating to the CFC to help those in need. Visit the [CFC intranet site](#) for more information.

**CFC Competition**

Each week, offices are competing to win prizes for different categories related to CFC donations. Winners are rewarded with artwork and the 2019 CFC lab coat. Last week, Region 8 won for highest percent increase in dollars donated. See the lab coat photos below to



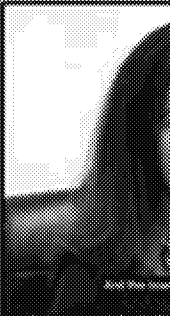
**Key Dates**

V

Click on each event below to get more details.


### Interview with Regional of the Regional Court Board


Sarah shares, "In Court  
track our judicial cases  
biggest and most impor  
Department of Justice."



Click on the "Add to Calendar" button to add an event to your Outlook calendar.  
If you see a log-in screen, please click on your EPA email, or if prompted, enter your email and network password.

**This Week:**


**Nov. 11 to Dec 9:** [Federal Health Benefits Open Season](#)  [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

**Nov. 14:** [How to Find and Use Digital CFRs](#)  [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)


**Coming soon:**

 [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

**Nov. 14:** [How to Find and Use Digital CFRs](#)  [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

**Nov. 19:** [How to Find and Use Digital CFRs](#)  [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

**Dec. 5:** [ELMS Overview](#)  [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

**Jan. 17:** [2020 Sammies Nominations Deadline](#)  [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

**Health & Wellness**

**Lower your risk for lung cancer**

**IT**

**Skype Challenge 2.0, Week**

More Americans die of lung cancer than any other type of cancer, according to the Centers for

If you aren't using Skype yet, no

Disease Control and Prevention. Cigarette smoking causes 80 to 90 percent of lung cancer deaths in the United States. The second leading cause of lung cancer is exposure to radon gas.

To lower your risk for lung cancer:

- Quit smoking through a proven [smoking cessation](#) method.
- Avoid secondhand smoke and do not use tobacco products (e.g., cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco and pipes).
- Test your home for [radon gas](#).
- Eat a balanced diet and be physically active.

For more information, visit the [Lung Cancer page](#) on the Office of Mission Support's Safety and Sustainability Division's intranet site.

EPA's platform for easily chatting participating in online meetings Challenge is a quick, easy and and you might win a prize!

To participate, simply complete Skype Challenge activities each challenge in the series.

**Week 2 of 3: [Call a Coworker](#)**

To learn more about using Skype

We would love to hear our feedback about this newsletter. Please contact us at [internalcomms@epa.gov](mailto:internalcomms@epa.gov) | <http://intranet.epa.gov/internalcomms>.  
Looking for previous editions of the newsletter? Go to the [Newsletter Archive](#)